



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 28, 2016

New Resource Specialist Jared O'Brien joins ISDA staff

INDIANAPOLIS – Today, Indiana State Department of Agriculture's Division of Soil Conservation (DSC) is pleased to announce the hiring of a new Resource Specialist in northwest Indiana, Jared O'Brien. He will be working at the Jasper County USDA Service Center in Rensselaer, providing conservation technical assistance to landowners while collaborating with the IN Conservation Partnership.

Originally from Chicago, O'Brien graduated from Valparaiso University with a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science and Geography. Previously, he worked at an environmental consulting firm, Taltree Arboretum and Gardens in Valparaiso and as a 319 watershed coordinator in Orange County.

"We are thrilled to have such a skilled young professional join our conservation team," said Ted McKinney, ISDA Director. "I'm confident that Jared's experience in the field and background in environmental studies will be a true asset to northwest Indiana."

As a Resource Specialist, O'Brien will help agricultural landowners assess specific soil and water resource problems, as well as develop and apply appropriate solutions. Some of the services they offer include: providing up-to-date information to create or revise conservation management plans, evaluating on-site erosion and nutrient problems, helping landowners identify specific conservation practices and supervising installation and maintenance of selected conservation practices.

O'Brien now resides in Valparaiso and will be covering Jasper, Newton, Lake, Benton and White counties. He can be reached by calling 219-863-6555 or emailing jobrien1@idsa.in.gov. To learn more about resource specialists and the DSC, please visit www.in.gov/idsa/2367.htm.

###

Media Contact:

Ben Gavelek

Phone: 317.690.3303

Email: bgavelek@idsa.in.gov



Indiana State Department of Agriculture • www.isda.in.gov • (317) 232-8770